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## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2010

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DECEMBER 3, 2010

*"Let us pledge to keep the promise of the goals alive in the community of persons with disabilities. And let us include them not only as beneficiaries but as valued agents of change in our five-year push to reach the goals by the internationally agreed deadline of 2015."*

-- [Message of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, December 3, 2010](#)



The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December aims to promote a better understanding of disability issues with a focus on the rights of persons with disabilities and gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of the political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities. The theme of this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities is "Keeping the Promise: Mainstreaming Disability in the Millennium Development Goals."

### **SPECIAL MESSAGES ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT**

[Presidential Proclamation on International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) (December 3, 2010) - "On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we acknowledge the contributions of women and men with disabilities around the world, and we recognize our charge to ensure that all individuals can enjoy full inclusion and participation in our societies."

[Statement by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) (December 2, 2010) - "Advancing opportunities and promoting the rights of disabled people has been a lifelong commitment, and I am honored to continue advocating on behalf of people with disabilities on the international stage." Read the full remarks [here](#).

## U.S. COMMITMENTS: KEEPING THE PROMISE

[Presidential Proclamation on Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (July 26, 2010) - "When the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law in 1990, a founding truth of our Nation was realized for persons living with disabilities -- that all our citizens are entitled to the same privileges, pursuits, and civil rights. As we mark the 20th anniversary of this historic legislation, we renew our commitment to ensuring that everyone with disabilities can live free from the weight of discrimination and pursue the American dream." Read the full statement [here](#).

[President Obama on 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (July 26, 2010) - "Today, as we commemorate what the ADA accomplished, we celebrate who the ADA was all about. It was about the young girl in Washington State who just wanted to see a movie at her hometown theater, but was turned away because she had cerebral palsy; or the young man in Indiana who showed up at a worksite, able to do the work, excited for the opportunity, but was turned away and called a cripple because of a minor disability he had already trained himself to work with; or the student in California who was eager and able to attend the college of his dreams, and refused to let the iron grip of polio keep him from the classroom -- each of whom became integral to this cause." Read the full remarks [here](#).



[Secretary Clinton on 20th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (July 26, 2010) - "Expanding opportunity and supporting human rights are among the most important guideposts in our foreign policy. Discrimination against persons with disabilities is not only an injustice, it is a strain on economic development, a limit to democracy, a burden on families, and a cause of social erosion. For these reasons, we at the State Department must remain committed to the vision of the ADA and to the continued removal of barriers, to create a world in which persons with disabilities truly enjoy the dignity and respect that they deserve." Read the full remarks [here](#).

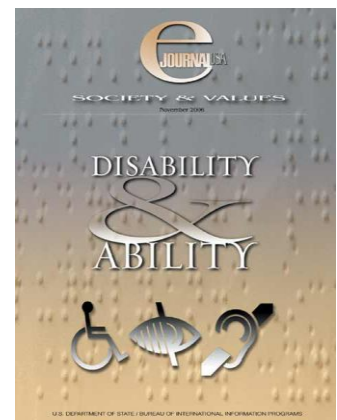


[Americans with Disabilities Act Turns 20](#) (July 22, 2010) - "Today the average person can see that when you go to movie theaters and shopping malls, grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, they are accessible. Sometimes [clothing store owners] store things in the wheelchair-accessible dressing rooms and don't use them correctly - but basically the physical environment of the United States has dramatically changed."

Read an interview with the State Department's special adviser on international disability rights Judith Heumann [here](#).

## ONLINE READING

[Disability and Ability](#) (November 2006) - With support, people can overcome even severe disabilities while maximizing their abilities and lead fulfilling and productive lives. This journal presents some aspects of such efforts. Opening opportunities and removing barriers to people with disabilities is a work in progress, but as you will see in some of these articles, the results can be truly inspiring.



## PHOTO GALLERY



[Building on the Progress of the ADA](#) - This photo gallery looks at some of the efforts being made to build on the progress of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The abilities shown in these images highlight the strides towards equality and some accomplishments of people with disabilities.

[Rethinking Playgrounds](#) - Rethinking playgrounds has made them accessible to children with disabilities and safer for all, and has created places where all children can play together.



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